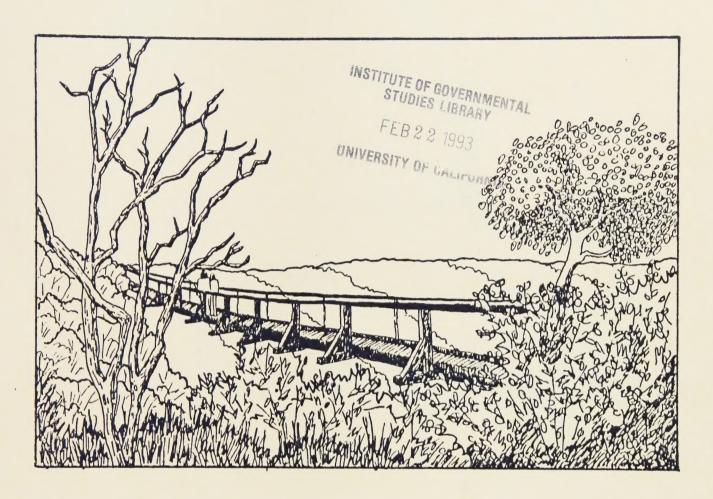
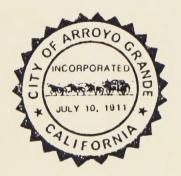
CITY OF ARROYO GRANDE





PARKS AND RECREATION ELEMENT

OF THE GENERAL PLAN

ADOPTED NOVEMBER, 1988



CITY OF ARROYO GRANDE

PARKS AND RECREATION ELEMENT

Section 9.0 of the Arroyo Grande General Plan

Adopted by the Arroyo Grande City Council on November 22, 1988, Resolution No. 2270



ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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Dorace Johnson, Mayor Pro Tem
Mark Millis, Councilmember

Gene Moots, Councilmember D.G. Porter, Councilmember

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INTRODUCTION

Background and Purpose of the Element

The City of Arroyo Grande has recognized the need for park and recreation planning since 1966, when it first adopted a Parks and Recreation Element of the General Plan. This Element had minor revisions made to it in 1970, but has not been updated since that time. Therefore, this revised Parks and Recreation Element is necessary in order to accurately reflect the existing and future recreational needs of the City's residents. This document replaces the previous Parks and Recreation Element in its entirety.

The Parks and Recreation Element is an optional element of the City of Arroyo Grande General Plan and its preparation is not mandatory under State law. However, community certification for all Federal and most State open space and conservation funding programs requires the preparation of a Parks and Recreation Element. In addition, this Element must be consistent with the other elements of the City's General Plan. It carries the same importance and has the same force and effect as a mandatory element.

Organization of the Element

The Parks and Recreation Element is composed of the following planning components:

- * Definitions and categories of parkland and recreational facilities and programs
- * Inventory of existing facilities and programs
- * Identification of immediate and future park and recreation needs
- * Objectives and policies to direct park and recreation development and activities
- * Implementation measures to carry out all policies

This Element includes maps and illustrations, where possible, that graphically depict the abovementioned information.

Definitions |

Neighborhood Park: Neighborhood parks serve approximately the same population and area served by an elementary school. They can be planned with and located adjacent to elementary schools in order to provide a full range of outdoor and indoor activities for children and family groups. In many areas, the neighborhood park also serves adults, particularly senior citizens. They should provide open areas for passive recreation and relaxation, and play areas. Ideally, neighborhood parks should be, at a minimum, five (5) acres in size.

Community Park: Community parks supplement the neighborhood parks by providing for activities that require more space and for specialized functions which must serve a larger population in order to be justified. They can be located adjacent to a secondary school in order to promote joint use of buildings and sports facilities. Community parks minimumally require ten (10) to twenty-five (25) acres of property, however size is dependent on the type of facilities to be included on the site. They may also serve as the neighborhood park for the immediate area.

Wayside Park: Wayside parks serve the traveling public and provide an open area for resting and picnicking.

TABLE 9-1
EXISTING PARK AND RECREATION FACILITIES

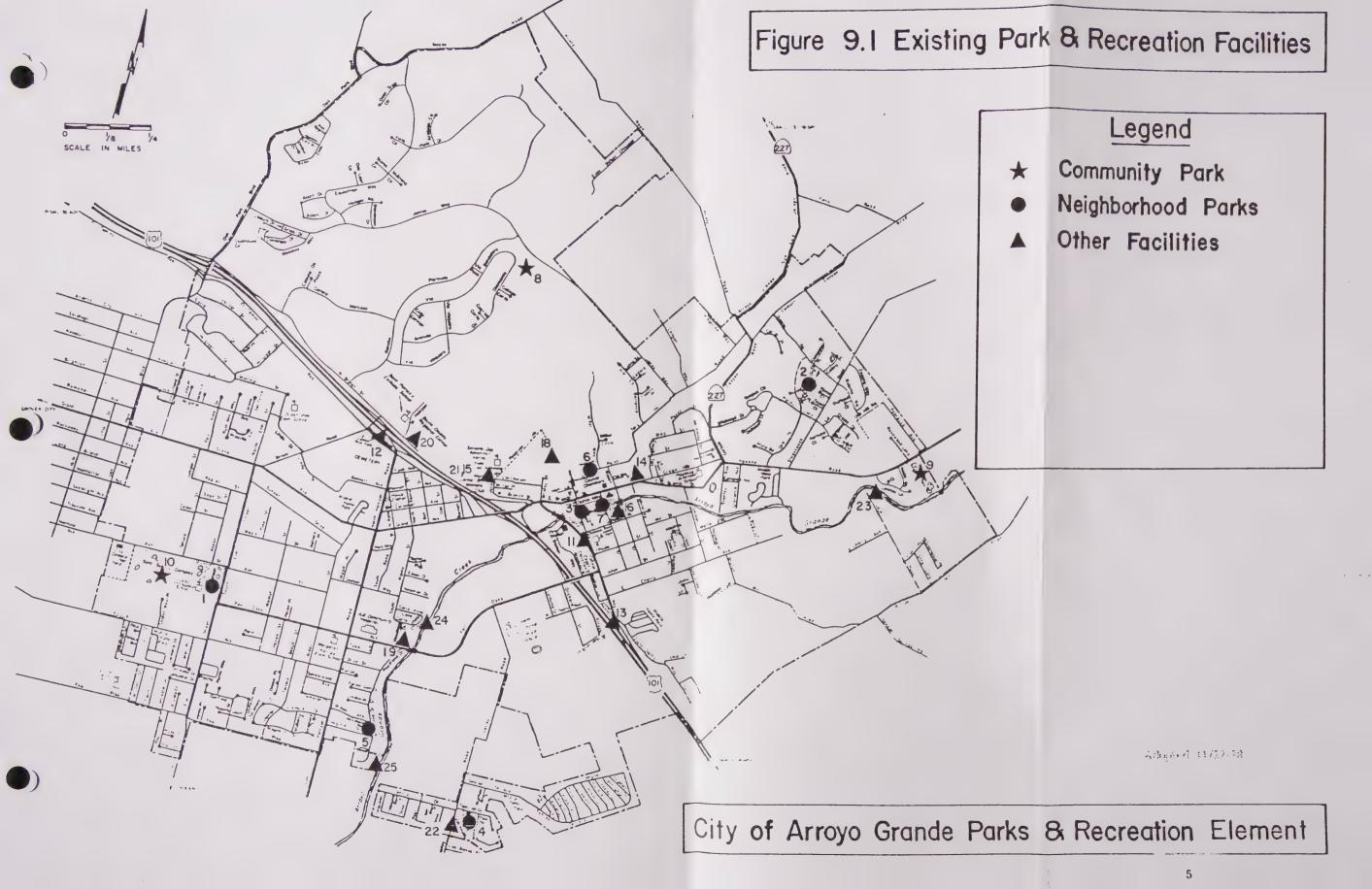
	LOCATION*	ACREAG	E FACILITIES
NETCHROPHOOD BARRA			
NEIGHBORHOOD PARKS:			
Elm Street Park	Elm Street between	5.00	Full use park
	Ash & Fair Oaks		
Monaya 1	(1)		
Terra de Oro Park	Oro Dr. between	3.40	Play area
	Platino Lane & Gularte Rd.		
***	(2)		
Kiwanis Park	Olohan Alley & Bridge Street	t 3.30	Picnic tables
m.i.	(3)		
Tiger Tail Park	Tiger Tail Dr. & Bambi Ct.	0.35	Grass area with trees
Weedland	(4)		
Woodland Park	Woodland Dr. between	0.35	Grass areas with trees
	Willow Ln. & Virginia Dr.		
Il and the state of the state o	(5)		
Hoosgow Historical	Le Point St. & Miller Way	0.31	Historic jail ,
Park			,
William C	(6)		
Village Green &	Olohan Alley	0.25	Historic swinging
Gazebo			bridge, picnic tables,
			restrooms, gazebo
	(7)		gazezo
TOTAL ACR	EAGE - NEIGHBORHOOD PARKS =	12.96	
(APPROXIMA	TELY 1 ACRE/1,000 POPULATION)		
(APPROXIMA	TELY 1 ACRE/1,000 POPULATION)		
(APPROXIMA COMMUNITY PARKS:			
(APPROXIMA	Avenida de Diamante	10.00	Undeveloped
COMMUNITY PARKS:	Avenida de Diamante	10.00	Undeveloped
CAPPROXIMA COMMUNITY PARKS: Cancho Grande Park Ctrother Community	Avenida de Diamante (8) Huasna Rd. and eastern		
COMMUNITY PARKS:	Avenida de Diamante	7.21	Full-use park, picnic
CAPPROXIMA COMMUNITY PARKS: Cancho Grande Park Ctrother Community	Avenida de Diamante (8) Huasna Rd. and eastern City limits	7.21	
CAPPROXIMA COMMUNITY PARKS: Cancho Grande Park Ctrother Community Park	Avenida de Diamante (8) Huasna Rd. and eastern City limits (9)	7.21	Full-use park, picnic areas, play area,
COMMUNITY PARKS: Rancho Grande Park Strother Community Park OMMUNITY SPORTS COMPLE	Avenida de Diamante (8) Huasna Rd. and eastern City limits (9)	7.21	Full-use park, picnic areas, play area,
CAPPROXIMA COMMUNITY PARKS: Cancho Grande Park Ctrother Community Park OMMUNITY SPORTS COMPLE Oto Sports Complex	Avenida de Diamante (8) Huasna Rd. and eastern City limits (9) EX: Elm St. between Ash &	7.21	Full-use park, picnic areas, play area, restrooms
CAPPROXIMA COMMUNITY PARKS: Cancho Grande Park Ctrother Community Park OMMUNITY SPORTS COMPLE Oto Sports Complex	Avenida de Diamante (8) Huasna Rd. and eastern City limits (9)	7.21	Full-use park, picnic areas, play area, restrooms Picnic areas, play area
CAPPROXIMA COMMUNITY PARKS: Cancho Grande Park Ctrother Community Park OMMUNITY SPORTS COMPLE Oto Sports Complex	Avenida de Diamante (8) Huasna Rd. and eastern City limits (9) EX: Elm St. between Ash & Fair Oaks	7.21	Full-use park, picnic areas, play area, restrooms Picnic areas, play area playing fields, tennis
CAPPROXIMA COMMUNITY PARKS: Cancho Grande Park Strother Community Park OMMUNITY SPORTS COMPLE oto Sports Complex	Avenida de Diamante (8) Huasna Rd. and eastern City limits (9) EX: Elm St. between Ash & Fair Oaks (10)	7.21	Full-use park, picnic areas, play area, restrooms Picnic areas, play area
COMMUNITY PARKS: Cancho Grande Park Ctrother Community Park COMMUNITY SPORTS COMPLETO Sports Complex TOTAL A	Avenida de Diamante (8) Huasna Rd. and eastern City limits (9) EX: Elm St. between Ash & Fair Oaks (10) CREAGE - COMMUNITY PARKS =	7.21 26.57	Full-use park, picnic areas, play area, restrooms Picnic areas, play area playing fields, tennis
COMMUNITY PARKS: Cancho Grande Park Ctrother Community Park COMMUNITY SPORTS COMPLETO Sports Complex TOTAL A	Avenida de Diamante (8) Huasna Rd. and eastern City limits (9) EX: Elm St. between Ash & Fair Oaks (10)	7.21 26.57	Full-use park, picnic areas, play area, restrooms Picnic areas, play area playing fields, tennis
CAPPROXIMA COMMUNITY PARKS: Cancho Grande Park Strother Community Park COMMUNITY SPORTS COMPLE Oto Sports Complex TOTAL A (APPROXIMATE	Avenida de Diamante (8) Huasna Rd. and eastern City limits (9) EX: Elm St. between Ash & Fair Oaks (10) CREAGE - COMMUNITY PARKS = LY 3.2 ACRES/1,000 POPULATION	7.21 26.57 43.78	Full-use park, picnic areas, play area, restrooms Picnic areas, play area playing fields, tennis
COMMUNITY PARKS: Rancho Grande Park Strother Community Park COMMUNITY SPORTS COMPLETO Oto Sports Complex TOTAL A (APPROXIMATE)	Avenida de Diamante (8) Huasna Rd. and eastern City limits (9) EX: Elm St. between Ash & Fair Oaks (10) CREAGE - COMMUNITY PARKS =	7.21 26.57 43.78	Full-use park, picnic areas, play area, restrooms Picnic areas, play area playing fields, tennis

Number in parenthesis corresponds to location on Existing Park and Recreation Facilities Map (Figure 9.1).

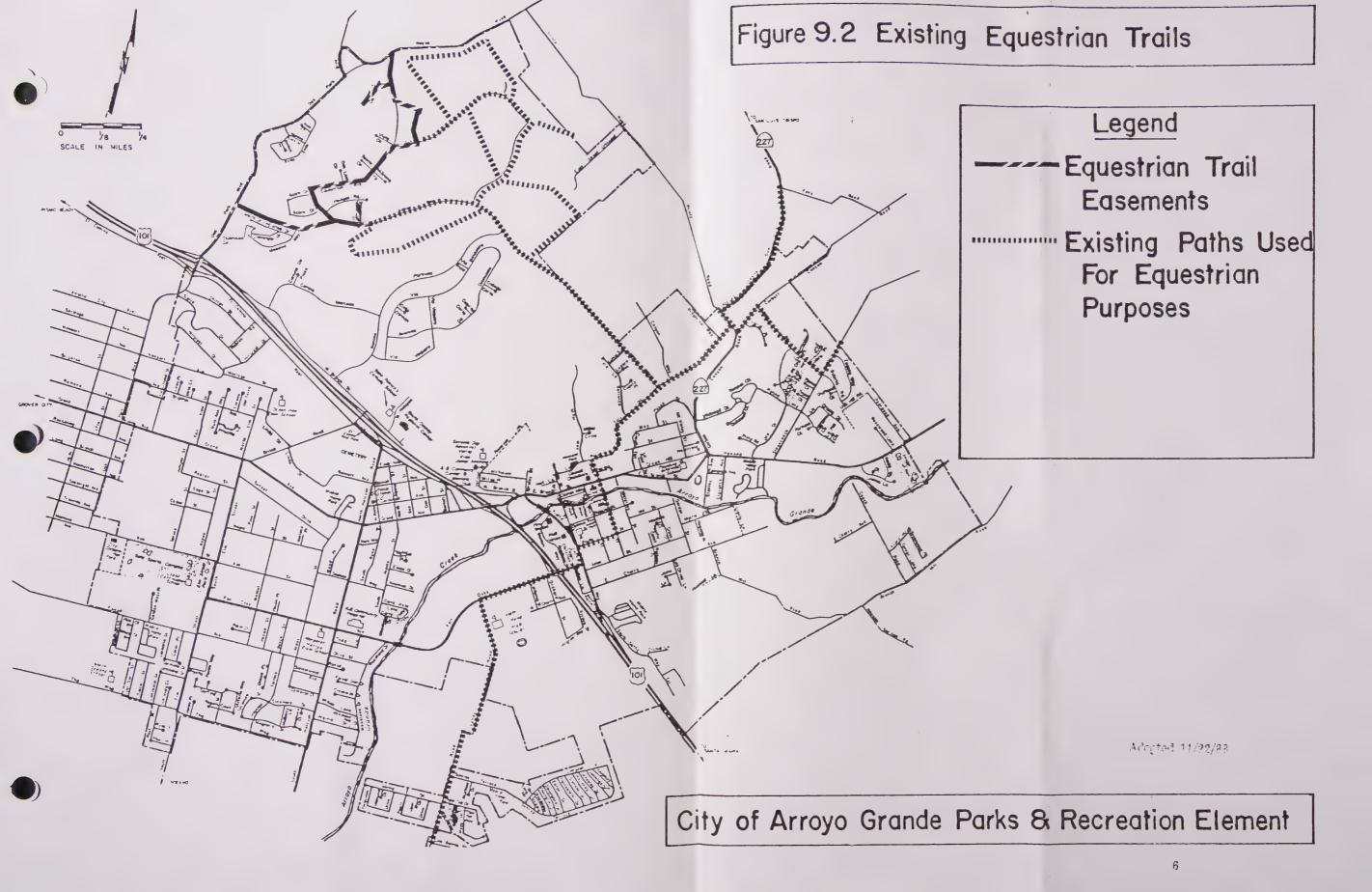
TABLE 9-1 (Continued) EXISTING PARK AND RECREATION FACILITIES

PARK/FACILITY NAME	LOCATION*	ACREAGE	FACILITIES
OTHER FACILITIES:			
Christmas Tree Island Wayside Park	Traffic Way & Bridge St.	0.36	Picnic table
El Camino Real Wayside Park	El Camino Real between Brisco Rd. & Halcyon Rd. (12)	0.36	Picnic tables
Dower Wayside Park	Traffic Way & Highway 101 (13)	0.10	Picnic table
Loomis Narrow Gauge Railroad Monument	Mason & East Branch St. (14)	N/A	Plaque
Arroyo Grande Community Center	211 Vernon St. (15)	N/A	225-person capacity, kitchen,2 meeting room
Parks & Recreation Dept Day School	126 S. Mason St.	0.30	Playground, picnic tables
Brush Poppers Riding Club	(16) Highway 1 in Oceano	5.13	Equestrian arena
Methodist Church Campground	250 Wesley Avenue	25.00	Swimming pool, over- night facilities, R.V. hookups, picnicking
Hospital Health Park	Fair Oaks Ave near Halcyon (19)	Rd. N/A	Par course
South County Regional Center	800 West Branch (20)	N/A	Library, large meeting room, stage, kitchen
Woman's Club Recre- ational Facility	211 Vernon St. (21)	N/A	See Arroyo Grande Community Center
Wayside Park	Valley Rd. & Via Berros	0.16	
Ikeda Streambed Property	Coach Rd. at Arroyo Grande Creek (23)	2.27	Undeveloped
Cerro Vista Streambed Property	Arroyo Grande Creek between Cerro Vista Lane and Cerro Vista Circle (24)	0.80	Undeveloped
Woodland Drive Streambed Property	West side of Arroyo Grande Creek at southern city limits (25)	0.90	Undeveloped











Federal, State and County Facilities

Local City parks generally serve City residents, however, a growing regional population and the growing business of tourism demand larger and sometimes more specialized parks. These needs are met through Federal, State and County park facilities (see Figure 9.3).

Federal Facilities: At the present time, there are no Federal parks nearby; however, Proposition 70 which passed in June, 1988, may result in a large National Seashore Area in the Nipomo Dunes. This 18,000-acre area has special plant colonies which are unique and endemic to the dunes. Mountains located east and north of Lopez Lake are part of the Los Padres National Forest, whose boundary is approximately 9 miles east of Arroyo Grande. Hiking trails, campgrounds and backpack campsites are managed by the U.S. Forest Service, in addition to roads and trails designated for off-road recreational vehicle use.

State Facilities: Pismo State Beach, located approximately 1.5 miles west of Arroyo Grande, is owned by the California Department of Parks and Recreation. The State has an operating agreement with the City of Pismo Beach for that section of beach and the Pismo Pier which lie within the City limits. Pismo State Beach includes the North Beach Campground (staffed by State Rangers), the Monarch Butterfly Preserve, the Le Sage Golf Course, and a new Ocean View Point parking and pienic facility, all of which are north of Grand Avenue.

The Pismo State Beach also includes a large, natural marsh area bordered by Highway 1, Grand Avenue and Pier Avenue, and the dunes to the west. Pismo State Beach includes Oceano Lagoon and Oceano Campground, plus vehicle ramps at Pier Avenue and Grand Avenue. Pismo State Beach also includes 500 acres south of Arroyo Grande Creek, which is designated as Pismo Dunes Nature Preserve. This area is restricted; access is limited to hikers and walkers, no development is permitted, and no vehicles are allowed.

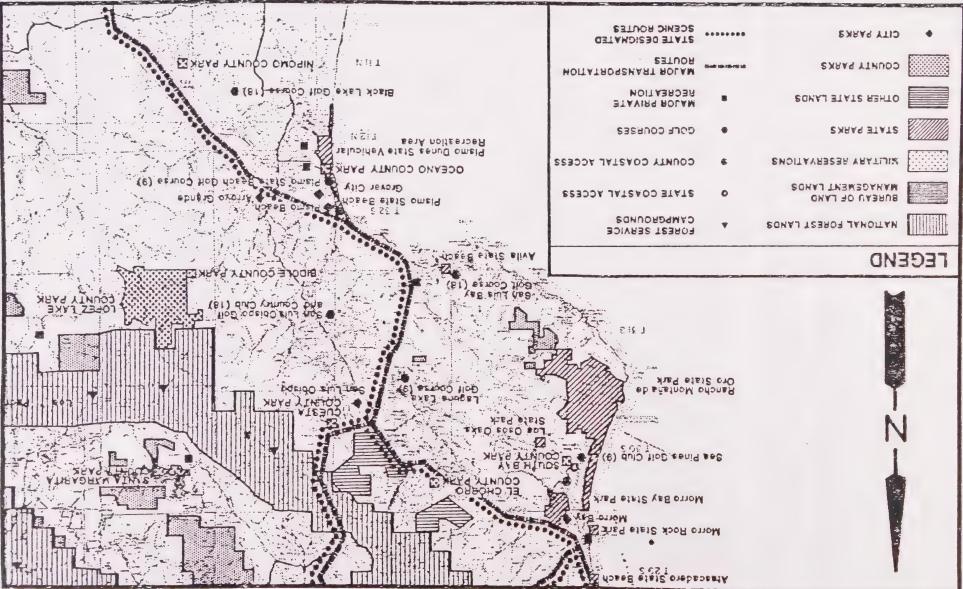
South and west of the Pismo Dunes Nature Preserve is the much-used Pismo Dunes Vehicular Recreation Area. This area totals 2,500 acres, and camping is permitted on the beach (weather and tide permitting). This is the only beach area in the State which permits four-wheel drive and off-road vehicles. The number of vehicles permitted per day is now limited to 500, based on the carrying capacity of the land and problems of policing the area in years past. This is a popular year-round destination, and is heavily used in the summer.

County Facilities: San Luis Obispo County owns and operates two (2) large park facilities in the Arroyo Grande area. Lopez Lake Recreation Area, located 10 miles east of Arroyo Grande, is the largest County facility (4,276 acres) and serves local residents, as well as thousands of visitors. Staffed by County Park Rangers, the area has a large campground, picnic areas and hiking trails. Water-related sports and recreation activities include boating, sail boarding, fishing, and swinming. Biddle Park is located west of Lake Lopez, between Lopez Drive and Arroyo Grande Creek, approximately six (6) miles east of the City. This 66-acre regional park serves San Luis Obispo and South County residents. Facilities include picnic areas, large group barbeque areas, softball diamonds, active play areas and a gazebo.

Oceano County Park is a 6.5 acre facility located west of Highway 1 and south of Pismo State Beach. This park features a lagoon with water fowl, play equipment, and a campground.

The South County Regional Center houses a branch of the public library, a large meeting room, a stage and a kitchen. It is located on West Branch Street near Halcyon Road.

Figure 9.3 Existing Federal, State and County Park Facilities



INVENTORY OF EXISTING RECREATION PROGRAMS

Structured Pre-school Program

The Pre-school Play and Learn Program currently offered by the City of Arroyo Grande Parks and Recreation Department is designed to provide children, between the ages of 3 and 5, with an opportunity to be in a learning situation while developing social skills with other children without being enrolled in a full-time day care program.



The pre-school program consists of four (4) classes, with 80 children participating. The main goal of the structured pre-school program is to prepare children for kindergarten. This program of fers a child an opportunity to socialize and interact with other children of his/her own age. Participating children are introduced to a learning environment, with an emphasis on learning colors, numbers, letters, reading readiness, verbal articulation before their of peers, sequential learning, and an introduction to science. Children are also given the opportunity to develop small motor skills (cutting, drawing, manipulating objects, etc.), and participate in other physical activities (running, games, swinging, etc.).

This pre-school-only program furnishes the community with a service that most other programs do not provide. Most local pre-schools include day care; consequently, more children are enrolled and the child does not have the opportunity for a one-on-one relationship with the instructor. The City's program also is lower in cost than most of the day care pre-schools; because of this, parents of low-income families are able to afford the program. The program is self-supporting (i.e., enrollment covers the costs for the supplies and the wages of the instructors), non-denominational, and limits children to nine (9) hours of instruction per week.

Playground Program

The Recreation Department offers a structured 1-week playground program during Easter and Christmas recesses, and a 8-week program during summer vacation. Activities for elementary-age children (5-12 years) are provided at school and park site locations.

Latchkey Program

This program, conducted at Ocean View and Margaret Harloe Elementary Schools, offers before-school and after-school child care for elementary school children.

Classes

The Recreation Department provides special interest classes, such as calligraphy, dance, wrestling, soccer, music, tumbling, stained glass and sign language.

Sport Leagues

The Recreation Department offers community activities, including men's and women's softball, basketball, adult soccer, youth and adult volleyball, and shares coordination of Little League, Babe Ruth, girl's softball, Youth football and youth soccer.

Festivals

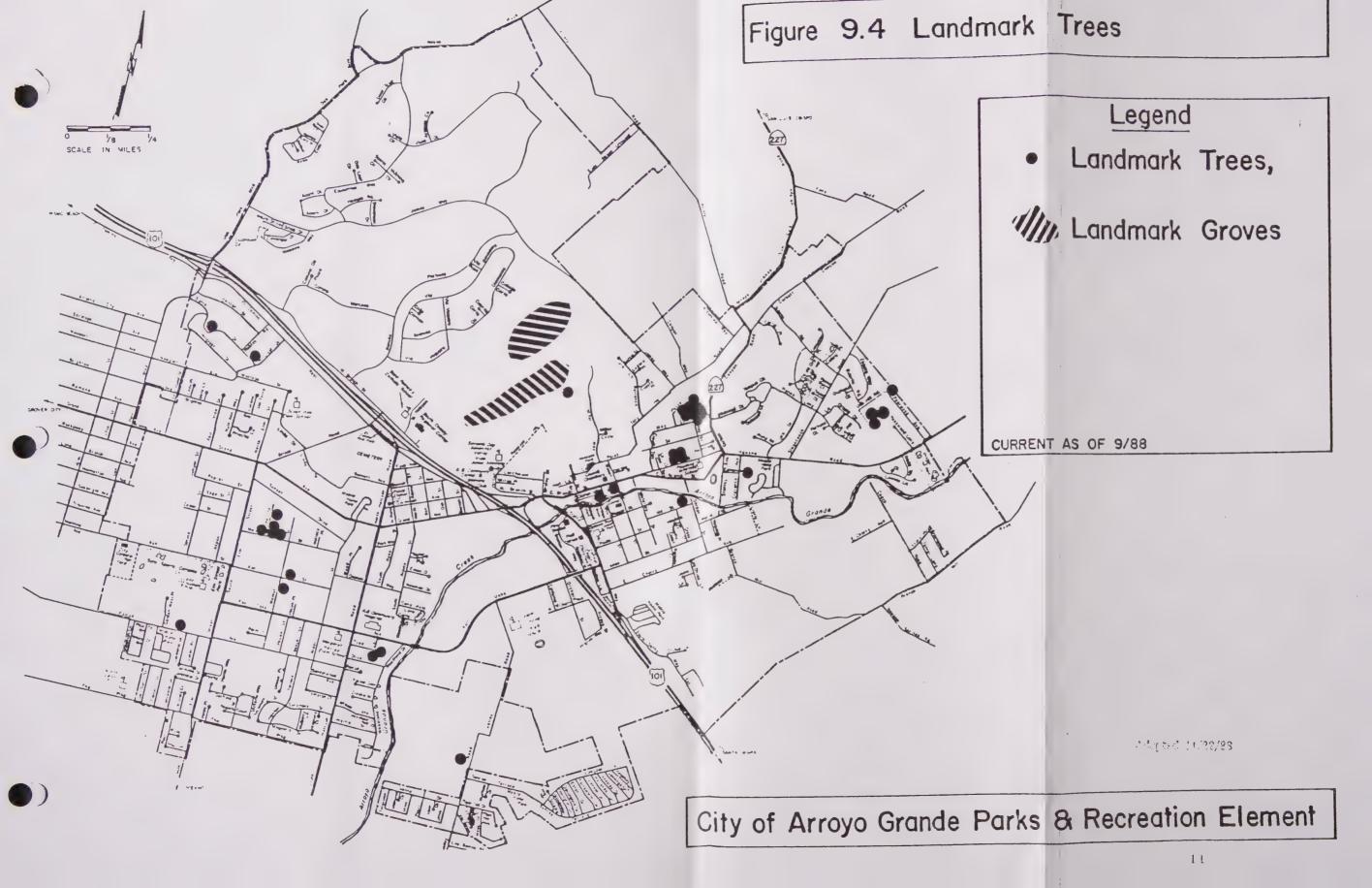
The City, the business community and the Chamber of Commerce are all involved in three annual festivals. These are the Strawberry Festival in May, the Harvest Festival in September, and the month-long programs related to Christmas. These programs are important to the community and to service and community groups, since they attract visitors and tourists from the County and beyond, and provide a unique recreation experience. Other events involving the Parks and Recreation Department are the Easter Egg Hunt and Fourth of July Arts and Crafts Bazaar.

Historic Trees

The City Council adopted the Landmark Tree Program in June, 1985, as part of Ordinance 333 C.S., with the purpose of producing a more desirable, aesthetically pleasing and beautiful city. The Program, administered by the Park and Recreation Director, has designated and documented numerous landmark trees. Each tree is marked, photographed, mapped and documented by signed resolution (see Figure 9.4 for locations). Two large groves of coastal oaks were added in 1987 as part of the Royal Oaks Estates development. Management of landmark trees and groves is divided: the preservation and maintenance remain the responsibility of the owner; the records and documentation are the responsibility of the City, specifically, the Park and Recreation Director. The signed resolution has the effect of acting as a legal document or contract between the owner and the City. Additional privately maintained greenbelts are located in the Oak Park Acres Planned Development.

The City of Arroyo Grande is also actively involved in the Tree U.S.A. program and is designated as a "Tree City".







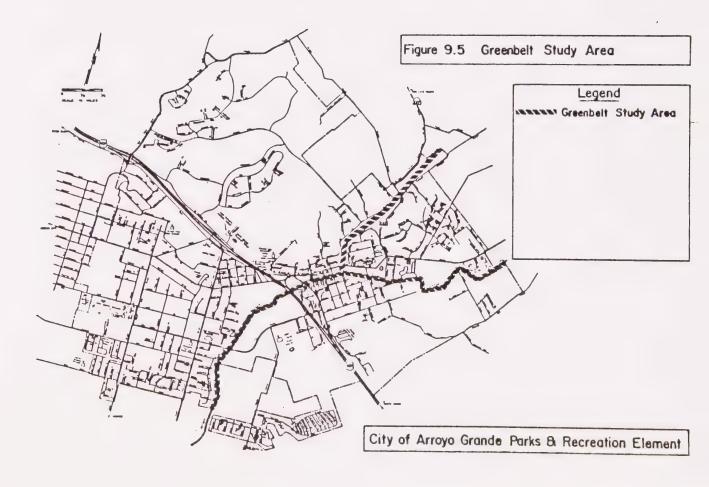
GREENBELT SYSTEM

The existing Land Use Element of the General Plan, the 1973 Open Space and Conservation Element, and the 1966 Park and Recreation Element outline a greenbelt system along the Arroyo Grande and Tally Ho (also known as the Corbett Canyon or North Arroyo Grande Branch) Creeks. In 1986, the City prepared a greenbelt study, which provided descriptions of the entire creek system.

The greenbelt study identified several recreation opportunities, such as hiking trails, access for aesthetic observations, picnic areas, neighborhood park sites and exhibition of native plants.

As a condition of subdivision approval adjacent to either creek, the City's parkland dedication ordinance (Ord. 313 C.S.) requires dedication to the City of the streambed and ten feet (10') back of the stream bank.

In order to fully implement the greenbelt study, the Open Space and Conservation Element should be updated to include objectives and policies regarding development of recreation opportunities within the greenbelt area.



IMMEDIATE AND FUTURE NEEDS ANALYSIS

This element is a tool designed to assist the City in meeting the recreational needs of the community. The identification of needs has been conducted by the Park and Recreation Department, the Planning Department, and the community representatives serving on the Parks and Recreation Commission. A matrix of long range park and recreation needs (0-5 years, 6-15 years, 16-30 years) was formulated by the Park and Recreation Commission to assist in the preparation of the element (see Table 9-2).

The National Recreation and Parks Association (NRPA) has established recommended standards for the number, size and type of parks and recreation facilities needed to adequately serve a given community (Appendix 9-A). It is difficult to apply these national standards to every City and community because of differing geographical, cultural, climatic and socioeconomic characteristics and, in fact, the NEPA stresses that it is imperative that every community develop its own standards for recreation, parks and open space.

Parks

The City adopted a parkland dedication ordinance in 1984 (Ord. 313 C.S.), which determined that four (4) acres of property for each 1,000 persons residing in the City is to be devoted to neighborhood and community park and recreation purposes. However, this ordinance does not specify how the four acres per 1,000 residents is to be divided among neighborhood and community park uses. Based on the information included in Table 9-1, the City is currently developing parkland at approximately the following ratio: neighborhood parks = 1 acre per 1,000 residents; community parks = 3 acres per 1,000 residents.

Two methods of analysis were used in determining parkland deficiencies and are illustrated in Table 9-3 and Figure 9.6, and graphically depicted below. Table 9-3 projects the amount of parkland necessary to meet the existing and future population based on Arroyo Grande park standards. The 1998 population figure of 19,378 residents was extrapolated from projections prepared by the San Luis Obispo County Planning Department using the following annual growth rates: 1985-1990 = 3.75%, 1990-1995 = 3.0%, and 1995-2000 = 1.75%. The park standard used for this analysis is 4 acres per 1,000 residents since this is the standard set down in Ordinance 313 C.S. Table 9-3 provides data on parkland needs, based on dividing the 4 acres per 1,000 residents in two different manners. The first scenario uses the existing ratio of neighborhood and community parkland. The second scenario uses a

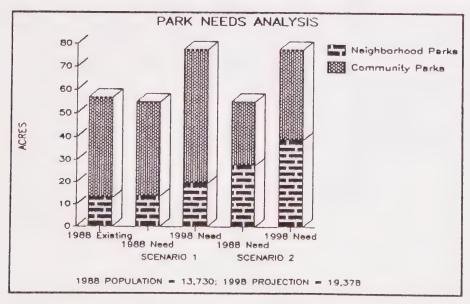


TABLE 9-2 PARK AND RECREATION PLANNING LONG RANGE PLANNING

Topic	Immediate 0-5 Years	Puture 6-15 Years	Long Range 16-30 Years
Trees	Preserve Royal Caks & Rancho Grande groves & trees, Protect other groves	Preserve trees & groves in new development and sphere of influence	Sphere of Influence - protect trees and creeks in County
Drainage	Carry through with drainage plan to the creek at Soto Sports Complex	Drainage at Terra de Oro; drainage line to A.G. Creek from Soto Complex	Effects of Arroyo Grande Creek
Active Facilities	Tennis courts @ Paulding School; facility for Parks & Rec. offices; YMCA; handball courts; tennis court lights; pre-school; complete Terra de Oro	Swinming pool, pre-school, golf course, Senior Citizen Center, multi- purpose gymnasium, complete Rancho Grande Park	Encourage soliciations of bowling alleys, miniature golf, batting cages, senior citizens
Passive Facilities	Begin greenbelt, "Strother to the Sea" joint-use trail along A.G. Creek	Amphitheater; Senior Citizen Center American Youth Hostel (AYH) in C-3 zones	Coordination of A.G. Creek to SLO County, "Lopez to the Sea" Trail
Bicycle Pethways	Bikeways-W. Branch, James Way, Rancho Parkway; bikeways in new development; complete bike route plan	Connect bikeways with County bikeways & with Pismo Adopted Bikeways Plan; bike parking & lockers; AYH for bike travelers	Comprehensive Class II bike path network
Future Parks	Pursue development of park/school sites; encourage dedication and donation of desirable & acceptable lands & facilities by developers	Regional-type day camp park Grande Highlands area park	Rustic campground; swimming pool, community center-Newsom Springs Park; pedestrian bridge in Strother Park
Open Space	Protect trees, natural areas, wet- lands, vistas in all new development	Enhance City gateways; protect scenic & urban vistas in all new development	Enhance streetscapes; add trees on local theme streets (i.e. Maple)
Creek Areas	Preserve Swinging Bridge; begin pathways along A.G. Creek	Public use for Tally Ho Creek from E. Branch to Le Point per Greenbelt System Report	Coordination with County for "Lopez Lake to the Sea" Trail
Recreational Trails	Decision on Brush Poppers: Identify present needs and proposed trail locations	Equestrian trails on Hwy. 227, Printz, Coach and Oak Park Roads -	Provide equestrian facility
Other	Encourage commercial development of facilities-seniors, health centers, bowling alleys, etc.	New location of pre-school; add child care, infant care, elderly, frail care programs	

Adopted 11/22/8

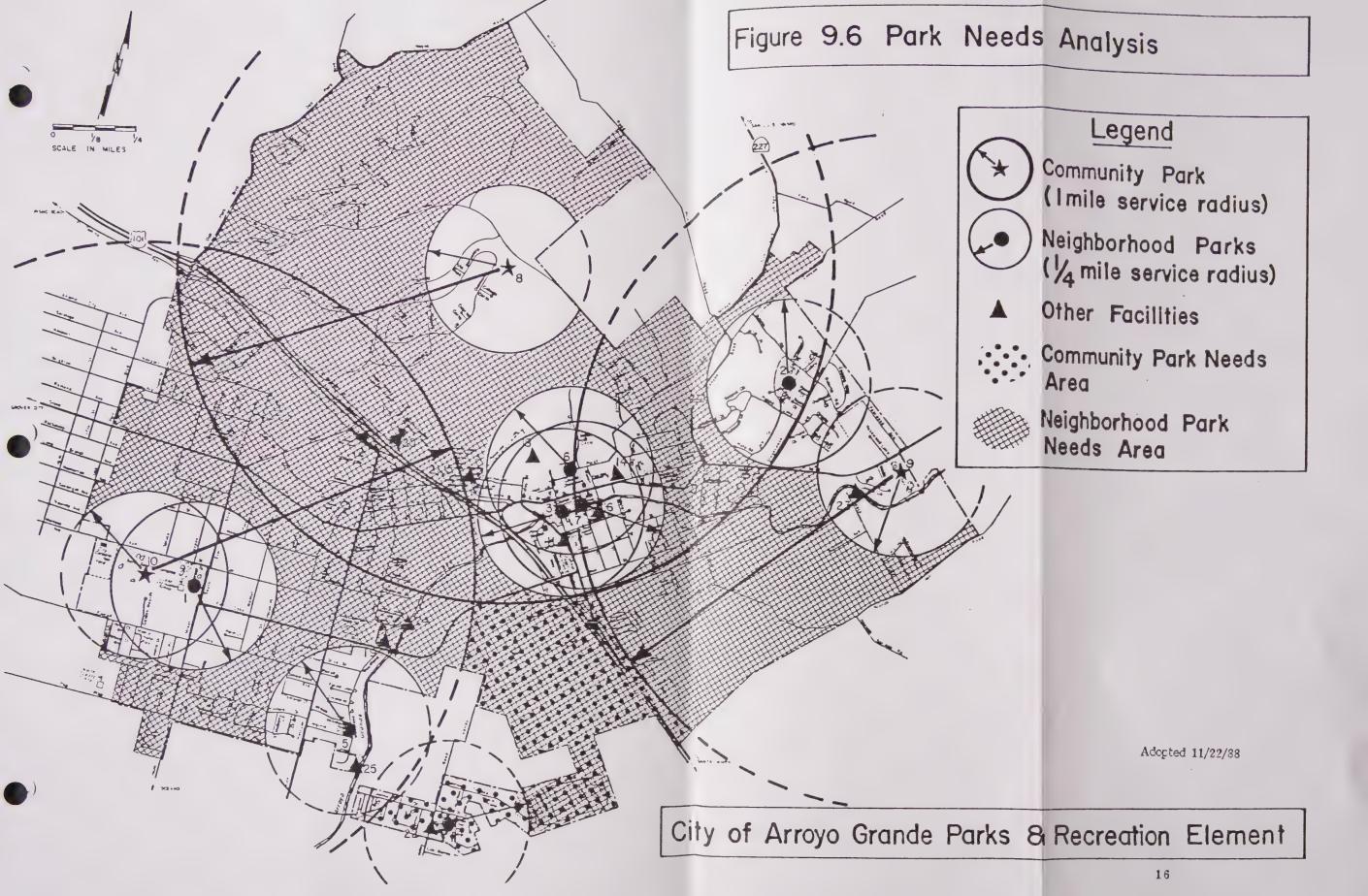
TABLE 9-3 PARKLAND NEEDS ANALYSIS

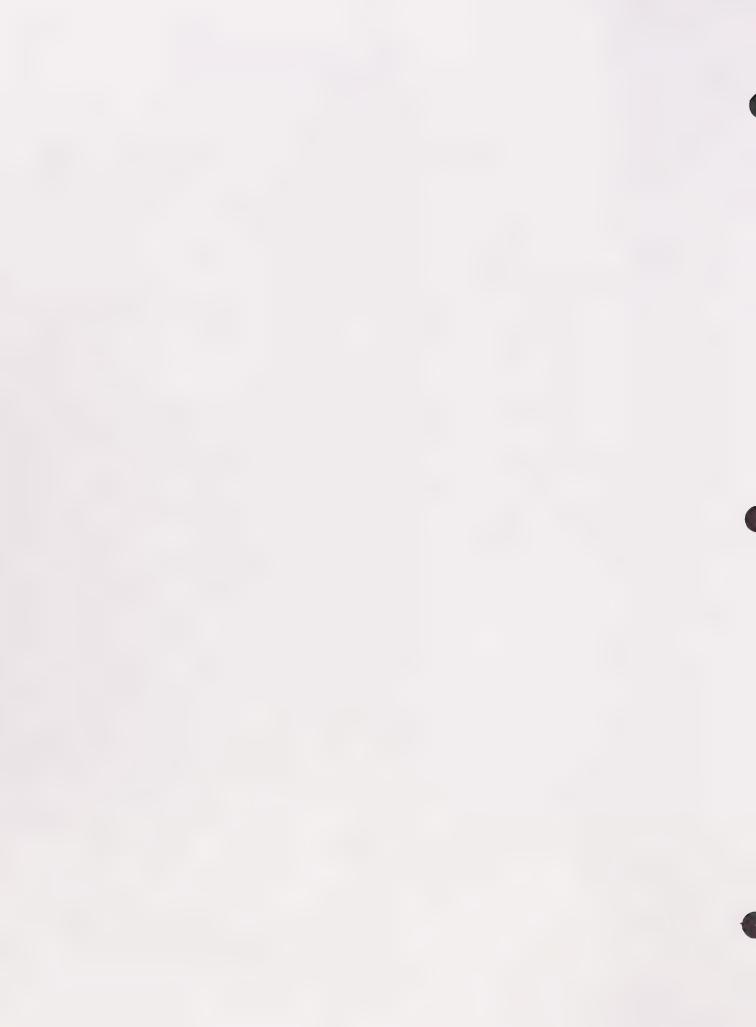
STADADS	A 1988 Existing Parkland (In Acres)	1988 Parkland ¹ Based on Standard (In Acres)	C Innediate Needs (Column B Ninus A) (In Acres)	1998 Parkland ² Based on Standard (In Acres)	R Future Needs (Column D Ninus A (In Acres)
Total Parkland 4 ac/1000 residents	56.7	54.9	-1.8	77.5	+20.8
Scenerio 1: Weighborhood 0 1 ac/1000 residents	13.0	13.7	+0.7	19.4	+6.4
Community 0 J ac/1000 residents	43.8	41.2	-2.6	58.1	+14.3
Scenerio 2: Jeighborhood D 2 ac/1000 residents	13.0	27.5	+14.5	38.8	+25.8
Community 2 ac/1000 residents	43.8	27.5	-16.3	38.8	-5.0

^{(-) =} Surplus

^{(+) =} Need

^{1 1988} Population Used = 13,730 2 1998 Population Used - 19,378 (SLO County Projections, 1987)





standard of 2 acres per 1,000 residents for neighborhood parks and 2 acres per 1,000 residents for community parks. This second scenario identifies an immediate need for additional neighborhood parks and a surplus of community parkland. The Park and Recreation Department and the Park and Recreation Commission feel the City should continue developing parks at the existing ratios, 1 acre per 1,000 residents for neighborhood parks and 3 acres per 1,000 residents for community park facilities.

According to Table 9-3, by 1998 the City will need an additional 20.8 acres of parkland. Approximately 6.4 acres will be needed for neighborhood parks and could comprise one to two park sites. Approximately 14.3 acres would be needed for community parks and could comprise one to two park sites. A community park could also function as a neighborhood park for its immediate area.

Figure 9.6 assists in determining possible locations of future parks by identifying the service area for existing neighborhood and community parks. A neighborhood park has a service area of approximately a one quarter mile radius, while a community park serves a one mile radius area. Shaded patterns on Figure 9.6 indicate areas of the City outside of a neighborhood or community park service area. It should be noted that portions of the planned development properties of Oak Park Acres, Rancho Grande, and Royal Oaks have been included within the neighborhood park needs area. While it is unlikely that new parks can be obtained in developed portions of these areas, the recreational needs of the residents may be met through utilization of open space areas. The area southeast of Arroyo Grande High School is within both a community and neighborhood park needs area. This area is currently used for agricultural purposes. If such a use were to change over the next 10 years and the area was to develop, development of a park site should be considered.

Facilities

Table 9-4 lists various recreation facilities and corresponding NRPA standards. Immediate and future City needs based on these standards were then calculated. According to this table, the City's immediate and future needs are for additional baseball fields, tennis and basketball courts, and for a multiple recreation court. The City is also very close to needing a swimming pool and handball and volleyball courts. The Parks and Recreation Department feels, based on the current participation in the sport, that additional soccer fields are presently needed and will be needed in the future. Table 9-4 indicates a surplus of soccer fields. All facility needs should be reviewed when new parks are designed, and developed where appropriate. Some facilities could also be developed by the private sector.

Recreational Trails

Walking, bicycling, hiking and jogging trails are low cost, low maintenance recreation uses which need a minimum of linear space. A City-wide recreational trail system should attempt to connect all parks and include appropriate portions of the Greenbelt System. A recreational trail would allow use by hikers, joggers, equestrians and all terrain bicycles (no motorized vehicles), however, there may be areas suitable for only one use. Ideally, City trails should link with County trails to form a network of trails. The Parks and Recreation Commission supports a regional recreational trail from Lopez Lake to the ocean. Most trail corridors would be based upon existing paths and serve to identify and protect these trails for future use. Specific purpose trails are discussed below.

Equestrian trails: A proposed equestrian trail network linking horse-populated areas within the City is shown in Figure 9.7. The network does not include all paths shown in Figure 9.2 where existing development or traffic safety is an issue. Most equestrian trails could be utilized for other purposes. The City does not maintain the existing equestrian easements within the City. If equestrian trails are developed as proposed in Figure 9.7, the City may be requested to assume the maintenance and liability costs associated with them. Such trails should be constructed to City standards. Proposed recreational trail standards are illustrated in Appendix 9-B.

TABLE 9-4 FACILITIES NEEDS ANALYSIS

PACIFITY STANDARD BASED ON NO. UNITS PER POPULATION 1	Facilities	1988 No. of Pacilities Needed Based on Standard	C Innediate Needs (Column B Minus A)	1998 No. of Pacilities Deeded Based on Standard ^a	B Puture Veeds (Column D Winus A)
Baseball Field = 1/5,000	1	2.7	+1.7	3.9	+2.9
Youth Baseball/Softball field = 1/5,000	5	2.7	-2.3	3.9	-1.1
Tennis Courts = 1/2,000	4	6.9	+2.9	9.7	+5.7
Basketball Courts = 1/5,000	0	2.7	+2.7	3.9	+3.9
Swimming Pools = 1/20,000	0	0.7	+0.7	1.0	+1.0
Handball Courts = 1/20,000	0	0.7	+0.7	1.0	+1.0
Golf Course: 9-Hole = 1/25,000 18-Hole = 1/50,000	0	0.5 0.3	+0.5 +0.3	0.8 0.4	+0.8 +0.4
Pootball = 1/20,000	1	0.7	-0.3	1.0	0.0
doccer = 1/10,000	3	1.4	-1.6	1.9	-1.1
olleyball = 1/5,000	2	2.7	+0.7	3.9	+1.9
Maltiple Rec Court Basketball, Volleyball, Tennis) = 1/10,000	0	1.4	+1.4	. 1.9	+1.9

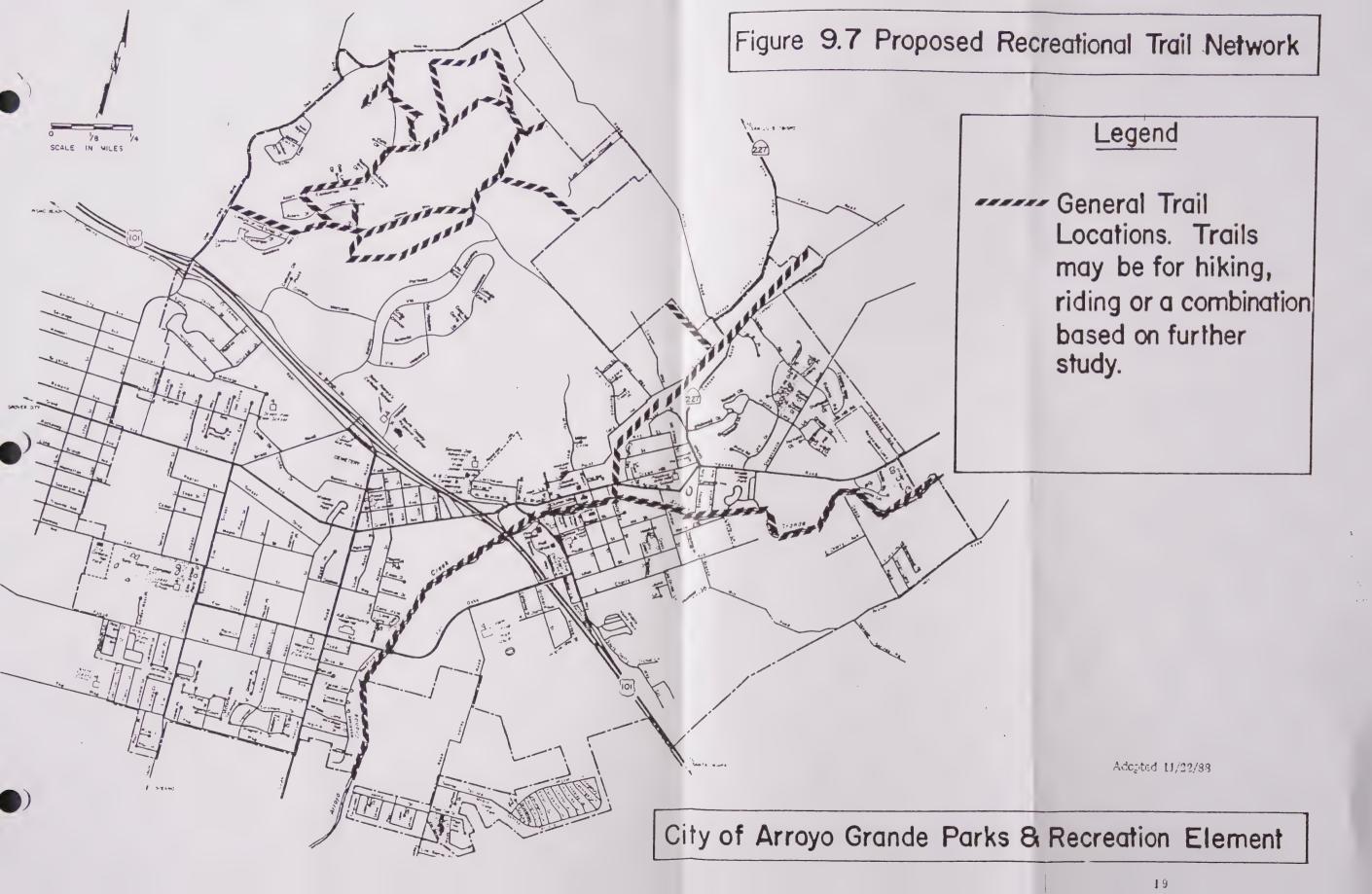
⁽⁻⁾⁻⁼ Surplus

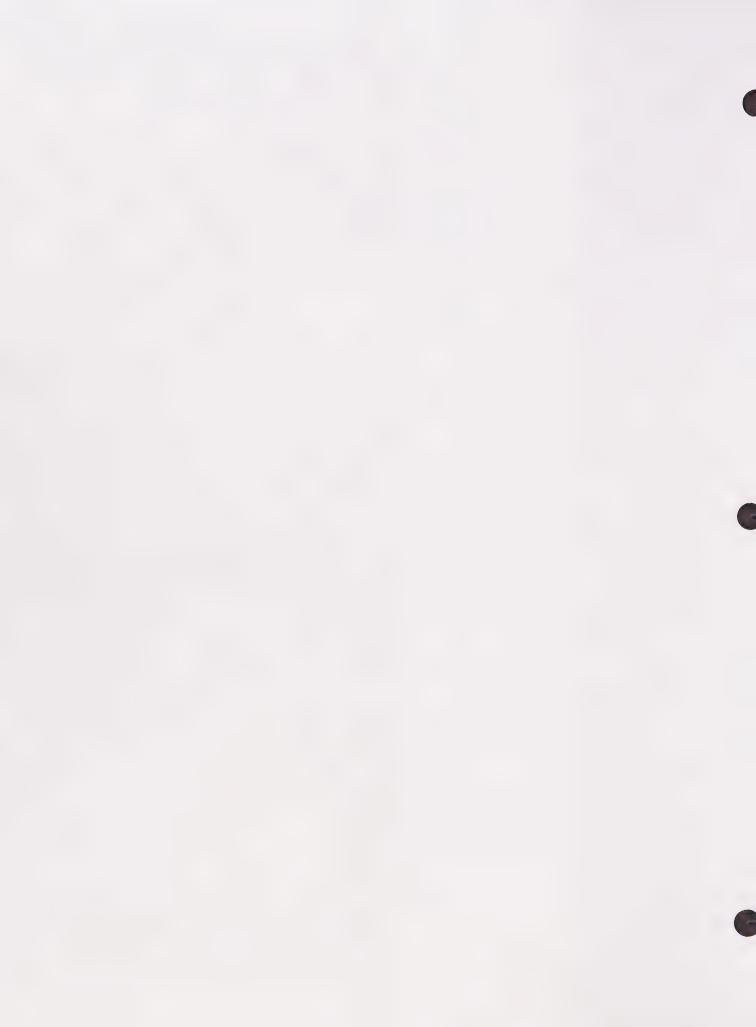
^{(+) =} Need

¹ Source: Recreation, Park & Open Space Standards and Guidelines, MRPA, 1983.

² Based on 1-1-88 Population Estimate of 13,730 Persons (State Dept. of Pinance)

⁸ Based on 1998 Population Projection of 19,378 Persons (SLO County Planning Dept., 1987)





Bicycle routes: The Circulation Element of the General Plan contains a section discussing bicycle circulation. Appendix 9-B supplements the discussion in the Circulation Element by including bicycle path standards. The Parks and Recreation Commission favors bikeways which serve to connect all parks throughout the City. Recommended short- and long-term designations for bike routes on major streets are as follows:

James Way - Short-term: Stripe as Class II bike lane as long as possible.

Long-term: If James Way is striped for three or four lanes no width

remains on the shoulder for a bike lane. A Class I

(separated bike path) will be necessary.

W. Branch Street - Short-term: Stripe as Class II bike lane.

Long-term: If street is not widened to 80' right-of-way, there will not

be room for bike lanes when road is striped for four lanes.

Class I will be necessary.

Huasna Road - Short-term: Stripe as Class II bike lane, where sufficient width exists.

Long-term: Class I.

Valley Road - Short-term: Class II. Long-term: Class I.

The need for additional bike paths has been identified by the Parks and Recreation Commission to

provide safe routes in the following areas (see also Figure 9.8).

* Reservoir Road

* North of Rancho Parkway (unplotted)

* Oak Country Road

* Gularte Road from Oro Drive to Stagecoach Road

* Stagecoach Road from Gularte Road to the County

* Coach Road, Huasna Road to Branch Mill Road

* Strother Park and across Arroyo Grande Creek

* South Traffic Way from Fair Oaks to the County

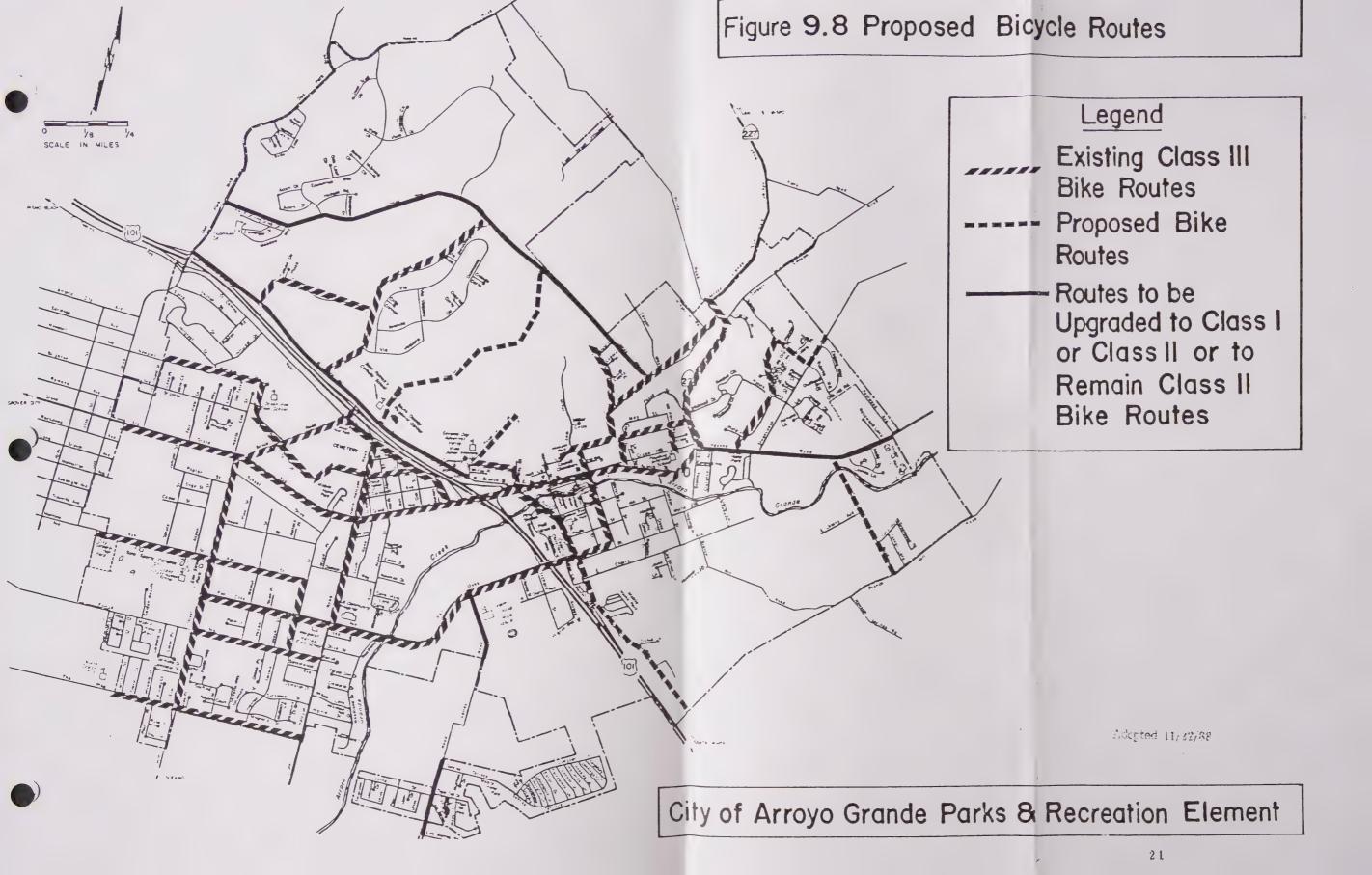
Class I (separated) bike paths will require additional right-of-way than what is currently included in City street standards. An amendment to Figure 3.7 of the Circulation Element will be necessary after approval of this Element in order that the General Plan is internally consistent with regards to bike routes.

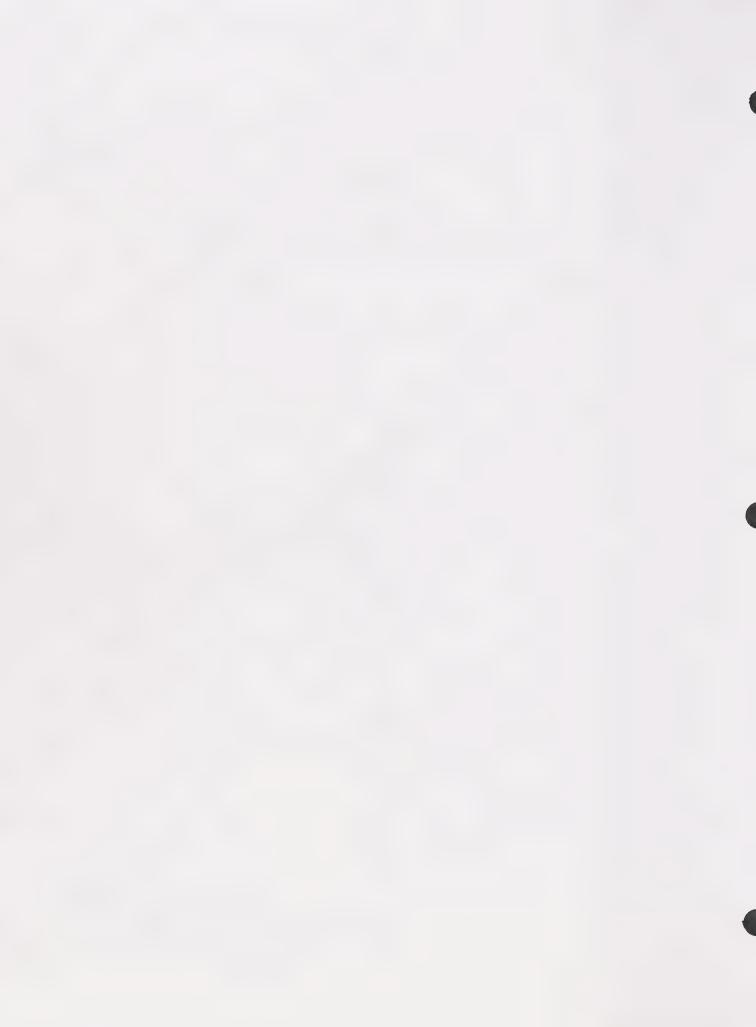
Recreation Programs

Childcare Programs: The need for full-time child care is increasing and costs for privately funded care are high. There are financial, insurance and other problems which limit or have reduced private program availability. The City foresees the time when it may be obligated to take on school-age child care responsibilities before and after school, plus all vacation periods. High school age children also require after-school social and sports programs, plus the need for supervised study areas. Cooperation may be necessary between the City and the local school district to provide facilities for after-school programs. Positive programs can help youngsters at a crucial period and work to prevent future social and police problems.

The present programs at Elm Street Park and Strother Park are seasonal and highly successful (summer, Easter and Christmas vacations). More programs will be needed to span all vacation days and periods.







Senior Citizen Programs: Approximately eighteen percent (18%) of the City's residents in 1980 were 65 years of age or older. While the City currently lacks a senior program which allows socialization with others and physical activity, it supports the South County Senior Citizens Club by paying one-half of the rent of their meeting facility at the United Methodist Church. In addition, a program may be needed in the future to provide transportation to the elderly so they can take part in the park and recreation programs the City has to offer.

Gardens

Historic Botanical Garden/Native Plants: Demonstration gardens, illustrating historic and upto-date horticultural specimens and techniques, are currently lacking within the City. Examples that could be utilized are:

- * A working windmill to demonstrate the mechanics and dependence of early families (the City owns a windmill, which is presently stored at the Corporation Yard);
- * Accept, as an estate planning gift, a working farm for use by FFA and other community or service groups. This would educate and entertain children, visitors and newcomers;
- * Gardens of endemic native plants with printed and braille identification markers;
- * Botanical garden used to demonstrate plants appropriate to this area and climate; and
- * Victorian flower garden.

Community Garden: Recreational community gardening consists of the non-sale cultivation of plant material by community members and is included as a park and recreation purpose under Government Code Section 66477. Community gardens use small, often excess lands, and can be incorporated into school programs on school grounds.

As Arroyo Grande becomes more urbanized with additional condominiums, apartments and duplexes, the need for a community garden will become more evident. Garden plots can be leased by the year and fees should be low to encourage children, teenagers and senior citizens on limited incomes to participate. Fees should cover water use and trash disposal only.

Requirements for a community garden include the following:

Land - City-owned, leased or per agreement with school district, church or business;

Installation of water bibs, plus a small yearly charge per member;

Regular management, preferably by a volunteer (individual or team); and

Minimum of staff time, weekly trash collection, storage building.

The City can use the community garden as a model composting site, demonstrating recycling of natural materials. The compost can be used as mulch in the community garden, serving as a model or educational tool for use by homeowners, school classes and other groups. Compost enriches the soil, stimulates microbial activity, improves soil structure, and adds important trace elements.

FUNDING AND IMPLEMENTATION

The financing of improvements described in this Element will incorporate a mix of techniques available to pay for park development, maintenance, and operations. Several methods of financing new parks and recreation programs, and renovating and maintaining existing parks are described below. In addition, each expansion or rehabilitation project should have a financing plan prepared that specifies the sources of revenue to pay for planning, land acquisition, capital improvements, rehabilitation, and operations and maintenance. The financing plan should be developed prior to the time the park facilities are designed. The City should create an on-going, 5-year Capital Improvement Program (CIP) that guides the implementation of the proposed park projects consistent with this Element. As a park facility enters the planning process, it will be added to the appropriate year in the CIP schedule. This will inform the City Council, Park and Recreation Commission and the community about the status of their park in the development process. This also enables the Park Department to generate donations and other volunteer actions.

Maintenance and Operation

In order to avoid any deficits or cutbacks in the level of park maintenance, the following actions are recommended:

User fees: Assess new user fees and increase same above present level, where appropriate.

Concessions: Encourage increased concessionaire activities at appropriate facilities (Soto Sports Complex). Investigate the possibility of leasing a site to a major fast food franchise, with the City receiving a percentage of revenue from concessions.

Citizen participation: Continue volunteer programs, and expand if possible. Continue to encourage donations of time, materials and expertise. Park development and programs have been enhanced through donations by utility companies, businesses and individuals.

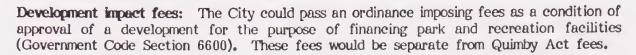
New Parks and Facilities

The City has a variety of options to fund new parks and operating expenses, including general obligation bonds, special taxes, donations, and/or new general fund taxes. The City shall seek to maximize revenues and assistance from the following revenue sources:

Quimby Act: The City will continue to implement the Quimby Act through Ordinance 313 C.S., which was adopted on June 26, 1984. This Ordinance requires developers to provide land and/or fees for the acquisition and development of park and recreation facilities in keeping with a general standard of four (4) acres per 1,000 residents. After adoption of this Park and Recreation Element, Section 9-3.507(1)(1) of the Municipal Code will need to be amended to include the Element's current date of adoption.

Federal and State Grants: The City should aggressively seek grants from State and Federal agencies, including State Park Bond Act funds, the Land and Water Conservation Fund, and the Environmental License Plate Fund. New grant programs, such as through Proposition 70, should also be utilized.

Land dedications/easements: As development occurs in areas of the City designated in this Element for park and recreation facilities, appropriate land dedications and easements should be negotiated.



City General Fund: Continue existing support of park and recreation facilities from the City's general fund. Several taxes could be increased to finance the park system, including the transient occupancy tax and the property transfer tax. The Gann Expenditure Limitation (Proposition 4) will limit the City's ability to raise general fund revenues for the park system.

User fees: Designate a portion of new user fees for new park and recreation facility acquisition.

Citizen participation: Continue to encourage donations, volunteer labor, foundation grants, and special events.

General Obligation Bonds: The City voters could approve a general obligation bond to finance needed park improvements with a two-third (2/3) majority vote. This option should be considered as a means to pay for a major share of land acquisition, capital improvements and rehabilitation of the park system outlined in the Park and Recreation Element. If approved, the bond would be repaid by an ad valorem tax override.

Revenue Bonds: The City may use revenue bonds to finance land acquisition and capital improvements for park facilities that generate revenues from user fees or concessions. This technique would most appropriately apply to equestrian centers, swimming pools, gymnasiums, and other special interest facilities.

Recreational Trails

In addition to the conventional acquisition methods, public trail rights-of-way can be secured through agreements with public and semi-public organizations, such as utility companies and flood control districts. The cost of trail acquisition varies according to the manner in which right-of-way is acquired. Donations, life estates, and dedications generally do not require direct funding. In most cases, purchase of fee-simple does result in the highest cost per acre, with the price level determined by normal market considerations. State and Federal grant programs should be utilized for right-of-way acquisition.

Trail development may be accomplished by developers, by contract with private construction firms, by volunteers (Boy Scouts, riding clubs, etc.), or nominal cost labor agreements (Honor camps - CMC). Trails that are to be maintained by the City must conform to City standards.

Recreation Programs

All City recreation programs are self-supporting. The people using the programs pay for the recreation, the leaders and staff through user fees which are listed in the quarterly flyer. Limited general funds are available to support special activities.

OBJECTIVES, POLICIES AND IMPLEMENTATION MEASURES

It is the overall goal of the City of Arroyo Grande to adequately provide for the recreational needs of Arroyo Grande residents and visitors. The Parks and Recreation Element should be used as a guide for developing additional park and recreation facilities.

- **Objective 1.0:** Neighborhood and community park facilities should be provided at a ratio of four (4) acres of parkland per 1,000 residents.
 - **Policy 1.1:** Neighborhood parks shall serve as the day-to-day recreational areas of the City, and should include such amenities as playgrounds, playfields, and grassy areas for passive recreation needs.
 - Implementation Measure 1.11: Review new development proposals for impacts to neighborhood park facilities and require dedication of land and/or payment of fees pursuant to Ordinance 313 C.S. Responsible Dept.: Parks and Recreation, Planning.
 - Policy 1.2: Community parks shall include playfields for such activities as baseball, softball, soccer and football, volleyball and tennis courts, restrooms and picnic areas.
 - Implementation Measure 1.21: Review new development proposals for impacts to community park facilities and require dedication of land and/or payment of fees pursuant to Ordinance 313 C.S. Responsible Dept.: Parks and Recreation, Planning.
- **Objective 2.0:** The City should attempt to supplement existing recreation and cultural facilities by developing new facilities at which time they are needed by the community and are economically feasible.
 - Policy 2.1: Pursuant to the objective above, the following are identified as future short-term needs (1-5 years from present) for additional recreational facilities:
 - a. Tennis courts at Paulding School;
 - b. New facility for Parks & Recreation Department offices:
 - c. Permanent location and expansion of pre-school program and childcare services:
 - d. Lighting for tennis courts:
 - e. Bicycle paths along West Branch Street and James Way;
 - f. Preservation of Swinging Bridge; and
 - g. Paths along creek area and development of Arroyo Grande and Tally Ho Creeks.

Implementation Measure 2.11:

- a. Contact Lucia Mar Unified School District about possibility of converting and existing parking lot into a tennis court. Responsible Dept.: Parks and Recreation;
- b. Continue discussions with Lucia Mar Unified School District regarding relocation of Lopez Continuation High School. Responsible Dept.: Parks and Recreation;
- c. See Implementation Measures 2.41, 2.42, and 2.43. Responsible Dept.: Parks and Recreation;
- d. Pursue methods of financing the purchase and installation of light fixtures at the tennis courts. Responsible Dept.: Parks and Recreation;

e. Stripe Class II bike lanes on West Branch Street and James Way where feasible. Responsible Dept.: Public Works;

f. Actively seek grants through Proposition 70, and other funding for preservation of Swinging Bridge. Responsible Dept.: Parks and Recreation, Public Works;

g. Continue creek dedication required by Subdivision Ordinance. Responsible Dept.: Planning, Public Works, Parks and Recreation. See also Implementation Measure 3.11.

Policy 2.2: Pursuant to the objective above, the following are future intermediate-term needs (5-15 years from present) for additional recreational facilities:

- a. Swimming pool and water sports activities (i.e. swimming classes);
- b. Golf course:
- c. Senior citizen center;
- d. Multi-purpose gymnasium;
- e. Amphitheater;
- f. Youth hostel;
- g. Bicycle paths connecting Highway 227 to the County and Pismo Beach;
- h. Regional day camp park;
- i. Park in Grande Highlands area;
- j. Park in Newsom Springs area;
- k. Private equestrian facilities;
- 1. Performing arts theater.

Implementation Measure 2.21:

- a. Contact San Luis Obispo County Park Division regarding possible future joint development of a park with swimming pool at border with Oceano. Responsible Dept.: Parks and Recreation;
- b. Encourage private development of a golf course by identifying those areas of City which could accomodate such a facility. Responsible Dept.: Parks and Recreation, Planning;
- c. Contact San Luis Obispo County regarding joint development of a Senior Citizen Center at the South County Regional Center. Responsible Dept.: Parks and Recreation;
- d. Contact San Luis Obispo County regarding joint development of a multi-purpose gymnasium. Encourage private development of gymnasium by identifiying those areas of City which could accomodate such a facility. Responsible Dept.: Parks and Recreation, Planning;
- e. Implement development of Rancho Grande Park Master Plan. Responsible Dept.: Parks and Recreation;
- f. Investigate the methods of establishing a youth hostel. Responsible Dept.: Parks and Recreation;
- g. Review and amend circulation element to include bike paths that connect Hwy. 227 to County and Pismo Beach. Responsible Dept.: Public Works, Planning.
- h. Investigate use of Methodist Campground or property in the Huasna area for regional day camp park. Responsible Dept.: Parks and Recreation;
- i. Review development proposals in Grande Highlands area for impacts to park and recreation facilities and require easements, dedications, and improvements when necessary. Responsible Dept.: Planning, Parks and Recreation:
- j. Review future annexations in Newson Springs area for park sites. Responsible Dept.: Planning, Parks and Recreation:
- k. Encourage private development of equestrian facilities in the Oak Park Acres development. Responsible Dept.: Parks and Recreation;

- 1. Contact the South County Performing Arts Building Foundation regarding development of theater. Responsible Dept.: Parks and Recreation.
- **Policy 2.3:** Pursuant to the objective above, the following are future **long-term** needs (16-30 years) for additional recreational facilities:
 - a. Bowling alleys;
 - b. Miniature golf course;
 - c. Batting cages:
 - d. Rustic campground outside City limits, in the Huasna Road area, as an overflow facility to Lake Lopez;
 - e. Connect equestrian trails to County;
 - f. Private sports complex and concessions.

Implementation Measure 2.31

- a. Encourage private development of a bowling alley by identifying those areas of City which could accomodate such a facility. Responsible Dept.: Parks and Recreation, Planning.
- b. Encourage private development of a miniature golf course by identifying those areas of City which could accommodate such a facility. Responsible Dept.: Parks and Recreation, Planning.
- c. Encourage private development of batting cages by identifying those areas of City which could accomodate such a facility. Responsible Dept.: Parks and Recreation, Planning.
- d. Review future annexations in the Huasna Road area for potential campground sites. Responsible Dept.: Parks and Recreation, Planning.
- e. Work closely with San Luis Obispo County Parks Division and Planning Department in its open space program to ensure that trail systems within Arroyo Grande link with County trails. Responsible Dept.: Parks and Recreation, Planning.
- f. Encourage private development of a sports complex and concessions by identifying those areas of City which could accommodate such a facility. Encourage operation of Soto Sports Complex or concessions by private firms. Responsible Dept.: Parks and Recreation, Planning.
- **Policy 2.4:** The City should promote recreation programs which meet the special needs of children, the elderly, and the handicapped.
 - Implementation Measure 2.41: Initiate an assessment of the child care needs of Arroyo Grande and implement comprehensive programs to meet those needs. Responsible Dept.: Parks and Recreation.
 - Implementation Measure 2.42: Continue and expand the pre-school program to meet existing and future demands. Responsible Dept.: Parks and Recreation.
 - Implementation Measure 2.43: Disseminate local child care resource information and provide referral services to the residents of Arroyo Grande. Responsible Dept.: Parks and Recreation.
 - Implementation Measure 2.44: Initiate programs and the construction of facilities within public parks that generate more outdoor and indoor activities for senior citizens. Responsible Dept.: Parks and Recreation.

- Implementation Measure 2.45: Coordinate an assistance program for elderly citizens requiring transportation to recreation programs using volunteers. Responsible Dept.: Parks and Recreation.
- Implementation Measure 2.46: Provide barrier free access to all new park development. Responsible Dept.: Parks and Recreation.
- Policy 2.5: The City should continually assess the ever-changing recreational needs of the community.
 - Implementation Measure 2.51: The Parks and Recreation Commission shall review the Parks and Recreation Element for revisions every two years. Responsible Dept.: Parks and Recreation.
 - Implementation Measure 2.52: At large, City-sponsored events, when appropriate, solicit public input via questionnaires on recreation needs of the City. Responsible Dept.: Parks and Recreation.
- Objective 3.0: A network of recreational trails and bicycle routes should be established for use by local residents and visitiors to the Arroyo Grande Valley.
 - Policy 3.1: Trails should be located generally as shown in Figures 9.7 and 9.8 of this Element.
 - Implementation Measure 3.11: Review development proposals for consistency with this element and require easements, dedications, and improvements when necessary. Responsible Dept.: Planning, Parks and Recreation, Public Works.
 - Policy 3.2: A recreational trail should be established along the Arroyo Grande Creek greenbelt from Strother Park to the ocean.
 - Implementation Measure 3.21: Review and update the greenbelt study as part of the Open Space and Conservation Element revisions. Responsible Dept.: Planning, Parks and Recreation, Public Works.
 - Implementation Measure 3.22: When development plans are prepared for the recreational trail along Arroyo Grande Creek, adequate environmental review shall be conducted on the proposal analyzing impacts to the riparian wetland habitat. Responsible Dept.: Planning, Parks and Recreation.
 - Policy 3.3: Safety shall be a major consideration in location, access, design, and use of trails throughout the City.
 - Implementation Measure 3.31: Recreational trail and bicycle path standards shall be as shown in Appendix 9-B. Responsible Dept.: Public Works, Parks and Recreation.
 - Implementation Measure 3.32: Proposed trails, especially bicycle routes which serve as connections to schools and recreation facilities, shall be given high priority in implementation. Responsible Dept.: Parks and Recreation, Public Works.
 - Implementation Measure 3.33: All established trails shall be identified via directional signage and/or bike lanes and trails. Upon implementation of future proposed trails, each trail/route shall be given appropriate signage for identification and access. Responsible Dept.: Public Works.

- Implementation Measure 3.34: Safe street crossing provisions shall be incorporated into any trails/routes crossing E. Branch Street, James Way, W. Branch Street, and Grand Avenue. Responsible Dept.: Public Works.
- Objective 4.0: The City will incorporate a mix of financing and acquisition techniques in the development of park and recreation facilities.
 - **Policy 4.1:** The financing of the City's park and recreation facilities and park system maintenance should be shared by the City, developers, special districts, homeowners' associations, and other government agencies.
 - **Implementation Measure 4.11:** Establish a 5-year Capital Improvement Program as the means of coordinating the acquisition, improvement and rehabilitation of City park facilities. **Responsible Dept.:** Parks and Recreation, Public Works.
 - Implementation Measure 4.12: Solicit and make use of, to the maximum extent possible, any federal and/or state grants, matching funds programs, fees and private donations for the acquisition of parkland. Responsible Dept.: Parks and Recreation.
 - Implementation Measure 4.13: Establish a volunteer program to reduce the cost of maintenance and operation of park facilities and recreation programs. Responsible Dept.: Parks and Recreation.
 - Implementation Measure 4.14: Continue to utilize Quimby Ordinance fees and dedications to the maximum extent feasible, to improve and expand upon parks and recreational facilities. Responsible Dept.: Parks and Recreation.
 - Implementation Measure 4.15: Update and implement existing park Master Plans. Develop Master Plans for parks without plans and in need of improvement. Responsible Dept.: Parks and Recreation.
 - **Policy 4.2:** The City shall encourage San Luis Obispo County, the Lucia Mar Unified School District, other public agencies, and private interests to combine efforts of improvement, expansion or construction of new recreation facilities.
 - Implementation Measure 4.21: Pursue development of joint school/park sites with the Lucia Mar Unified School District. Responsible Dept.: Parks and Recreation.
 - Implementation Measure 4.22: Coordinate efforts to establish recreational trails with the San Luis Obispo County Parks Division. Responsible Dept.: Parks and Recreation, Planning.
 - Policy 4.3: The City shall encourage commercial recreational facilities in the City, such as bowling alleys, sports complexes and senior citizen complexes.
 - Implementation Measure 4.31: See Implementation Measures 2.21d., 2.31a., and 2.31f.
- **Objective 5.0:** City parks and recreation facilities should be maintained in an attractive and functional condition.
 - Policy 5.1: The City shall improve and/or rehabilitate existing parks and recreation facilites.
 - Implementation Measure 5.11: Elm Street Park shall be improved as called for in the Master Plan. Responsible Dept.: Parks and Recreation.

e l

- Implementation Measure 5.12: Christmas Tree Island Wayside park shall be improved as called for in the Traffic Way Plan. Responsible Dept.: Parks and Recreation.
- Implementation Measure 5.13: The Soto Sports Complex facilities shall be completed as called for in the Master Plan. Responsible Dept.: Parks and Recreation.
- Implementation Measure 5.14: The pre-school program shall be relocated to an appropriate facility. Responsible Dept.: Parks and Recreation.
- Implementation Measure 5.15: The Village Green and Gazebo shall be rehabilitated and a continuous walkway installed from Mason to Bridge Street. Responsible Dept.: Parks and Recreation.
- Implementation Measure 5.16: Tennis courts should be converted from an existing parking lot at Paulding School. Responsible Dept.: Parks and Recreation.
- Implementation Measure 5.17: Terra de Oro Park shall be completed as called for in the Master Plan. Responsible Dept.: Parks and Recreation.

APPENDIX 9-A Recreation, Park & Open Space Standards (NRPA, 1983)

A Recommended
Classification System
for Local and Regional
Recreation Open Space

This classification system is intended to serve as a *guide* to planning—not as an absolute blue-print. Sometimes more than one component may occur within the same site (but not on the same parcel of land), particularly with respect to special uses within a regional park. Planners of park and recreation systems should be careful to provide adequate land for each functional component when this occurs.

NRPA suggests that a park system, at a minimum, be composed of a "core" system of parklands, with a total of 6.25 to 10.5 acres of developed open space per 1,000 population. The size and amount of "adjunct" parklands will vary from community to community, but *must* be taken into account when considering a total, well-rounded system of parks and recreation areas.

COMPONENT	USE	SERVICE AREA	DESIRABLE SIZE	ACRES/1,000 POPULATION	DESIRABLE SITE CHARACTERISTICS
A. LOCAL/CLO	SE-TO-HOME SPACE:				
Mini-Park	Specialized facilities that serve a concentrated or limited population or specific group such as tots or senior citizens.	Less than ¼-mile radius.	1 acre or less	0.25 to 0.5A	Within neighbor- hoods and in close proximity to apart- ment complexes, townhouse develop- ment or housing for the elderly.
Neighborhood · Park/Playground	Area for intense rec- reational activities, such as field games, court games, crafts, playground appa- ratus area, skating, picnicking, wading pools, etc.	% to %-mile radius to serve a population up to 5,000 (a neighborhood).	15+ acres	1.0 to 2.0A	Suited for intense development, Easily accessible to neighborhood population—geographically centered with safe walking and bike access. May be developed as a schoolpark facility.
Community Park	Area of diverse environmental quality. May include areas suited for intense recreational facilities, such as athletic complexes, large swimming pools. May be an area of natural quality for outdoor recreation, such as walking, viewing, sitting, picnicking. May be any combination of the above, depending upon site suitability and community need.	Several neighborhoods. 1 to 2 mile radius.	25+ acres	5.0 to 8.0A	May include natural features, such as water bodies, and areas suited for intense development. Easily accessible to neighborhood served.

Adopted 11/22/88

B. REGIONAL SPACE:

Regional/Metro-
politan Park

Area of natural or ornamental quality for outdoor recreation, such as picnicking, boating, fishing, swimming, camping, and trail uses; may include play areas.

Several communities.

1 hour driving time.

200+ acres

5.0 to 10.0A

Contiguous to or encompassing natural resources.

Regional Park

Area of natural quality for natureoriented outdoor recreation, such as viewing, and studying nature, wildlife habital, conservation, swimming, picnicking, hiking, fishing, boating, camping, and trail uses. May include active play areas. Generally, 80% of the land is reserved for conservation and natural resource management, with less than 20% used for recreation development.

Several communities.

1 hour driving time.

1,000+ acres; sufficient area to encompass the resource to be preserved and managed. Variable

Diverse or unique natural resources, such as lakes, streams, marshes, flora, faune, topography.

TOTAL REGIONAL SPACE = 15-20 A/1,000

C. SPACE THAT MAY BE LOCAL OR REGIONAL AND IS UNIQUE TO EACH COMMUNITY:

Linear Park

Area developed for one or more varying modes of recreational travel, such as hiking, biking, snowmobiling, horseback riding, cross-country skiing, canoeing and pleasure driving. May include active play areas. (NOTE: any included for any of above components may occur in the "linear park.")

No applicable standard.

Sufficient width to protect the resource and provide maximum use.

Variable

Built or natural corridors, such as utility rights-of-way, bluff lines, vegetation patterns, and roads, that link other components of the recreation system or community facilities, such as school, libraries, commercial areas, and other park areas.

Special Use

Areas for specialized or single purpose recreational activities, such as golf courses, nature centers, marinas, zoos, conservatories, arboreta, display gardens, arenas, outdoor theaters, gun ranges, or downhill ski areas, or areas that preserve, maintain, and interpret buildings, sites, and objects of archeological significance. Also plazas or squares in or near commercial centers, boulevards, parkways.

No applicable standard.

Variable depending on desired size.

Variable

Within communities.

Conservancy

Protection and management of the natural/cultural environment with recreation use as a secondary objective.

No applicable standard.

Sufficient to protect the resource.

Variable

Variable, depending on the resource being protected.



